

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 835

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. William L. Byrne of Pocahontas and Frayser.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. William "Bill" L. Byrne; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Byrne was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Bill Byrne was a highly skilled professional who enjoyed an extensive career in biomedical and neurological education and research; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Dr. Byrne retired from the University of Tennessee's Health Science Center after twenty-one years of employment with the institution, having previously worked as a biomedical researcher at Duke University; and

WHEREAS, a caring and committed gentleman, Dr. Bill Byrne dedicated the rest of his life to the betterment of the Frayser community of Memphis for the next twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, driving from his home in Pocahontas to Frayser, a 170-mile round-trip, two to three times a week, Dr. Byrne first came to Frayser in the early 1990s to mentor children and teenagers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Byrne founded Tennessee Mentorship, a nonprofit organization that matches young men with older male role models and provides stipends for job training and community service; and

WHEREAS, an iconic figure in the Frayser community, he either helped establish or founded the Frayser Community Association, the Frayser Community Development Corporation, the Frayser Interfaith Association, and the Frayser Police Joint Agency; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Byrne's good works to benefit the community of Frayser included hosting an annual community Thanksgiving dinner at the Ed Rice Community Center, planting trees, cleaning and keeping up the once-forgotten Frayser Park, bringing books for the children to the community center every week, and developing the "10 Common Code Violations" brochure, now used citywide in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a most appropriate tribute, in 2012, the Memphis City Council named a segment of James Road the "Dr. William Byrne Avenue" in recognition of his service to the community of Frayser; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, Dr. Bill Byrne enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, the late Fran Byrne, for sixty-seven years until her passing in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Byrne leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. William L. Byrne, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.